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III. Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. (original) A specimen identification method comprising the steps of:
 - identifying a specimen donor with a specimen donor identification information item;
 - adequately specifying a specimen related event identifier;
 - associating said specimen donor identification information item with said specimen related event identifier; and
 - generating a unique specimen identification information item in response to said step of associating said specimen donor identification information item with said specimen related event identifier.
2. (original) The specimen identification method as described in claim 1 wherein said step of generating a unique specimen identification information item in response to said step of associating said specimen donor identification information item with said specimen related event identifier comprises the step of generating a unique specimen identification information item by performing said step of associating said specimen donor identification information item with said specimen related event identifier.
3. (original) The specimen identification method as described in claim 1 wherein said step of identifying a specimen donor with a specimen donor identification

information item comprises the step of identifying a specimen donor with a social security number.

4. (original) The specimen identification method as described in claim 1 wherein said step of adequately specifying a specimen related event identifier comprises the step of adequately specifying a specimen collection time.
5. (original) The specimen identification method as described in claim 4 wherein said step of adequately specifying a specimen collection time comprises the step of specifying a specimen collection date.
6. (original) The specimen identification method as described in claim 5 wherein said step of adequately specifying a specimen collection time further comprising the step of adequately specifying a specimen collection time of day.
7. (original) The specimen identification method as described in claim 1 wherein generating a unique specimen identification information item comprises the step of generating a character-based, substantially contiguous specimen identification information item.
8. (original) The specimen identification method as described in claim 1 further comprising the step of rendering said specimen donor identification information item not immediately discernible.
9. (original) The specimen identification method as described in claim 8 further comprising the step of associating a discernment process specificity information item with said not immediately discernible specimen donor identification information item.
10. (original) The specimen identification method as described in claim 9 further comprising the step of associating a character-based discernment code with said

discernment process specificity information item to create a code representation information item, wherein said character-based discernment code represents said discernment process specificity information item.

11. (original) The specimen identification method as described in claim 10 further comprising the step of associating said character-based discernment code with said unique specimen identification information item.
12. (original) The specimen identification method as described in claim 11 wherein said step of associating said character-based discernment code with said unique specimen identification information item comprises the step of visually associating.
13. (original) The specimen identification method as described in claim 12 wherein said step of generating a unique specimen identification information item comprises generating a unique specimen identification information item that comprises said character-based discernment code.
14. (original) The specimen identification method as described in claim 10 further comprising the step of limiting access to said code representation information item.
15. (original) The specimen identification method as described in claim 8 wherein the step of rendering said specimen donor identification information item not immediately discernible comprises the step of encrypting said specimen donor identification information item to create an encrypted specimen donor identification information item.
16. (original) The specimen identification method as described in claim 15 further comprising the step of associating a decryption algorithm specificity information item with said encrypted specimen donor identification information item, wherein

said decryption algorithm specificity information item is usable to decrypt said encrypted specimen donor identification information item.

17. (original) The specimen identification method as described in claim 16 further comprising the step of associating a character-based, decryption code with said decryption algorithm specificity information item to create a code representation information item, wherein said character-based discernment code represents said decryption algorithm specificity information item.
18. (original) The specimen identification method as described in claim 17 further comprising the step of associating said character-based discernment code with said unique specimen identification information item.
19. (original) The specimen identification method as described in claim 18 wherein said step of associating said character-based discernment code with said unique specimen identification information item comprises the step of visually associating.
20. (original) The specimen identification method as described in claim 19 wherein said step of generating a unique specimen identification information item comprises the step of generating a unique specimen identification information item that comprises said character-based decryption code.
21. (original) The specimen identification method as described in claim 17 or 20 further comprising the step of limiting access to code representation information item.
22. (original) The specimen identification method as described in claim 16 further comprising the step of limiting access to said code representation information item.

23. (original) The specimen identification method as described in claim 1 further comprising the step of rendering said specimen related event identifier not immediately discernible.
24. (original) The specimen identification method as described in claim 23 wherein the step of rendering said specimen related event identifier not immediately discernible comprises the step of encrypting said specimen related event identifier to create an encrypted specimen related event identifier.
25. (original) The specimen identification method as described in claim 1 wherein the step of generating a unique specimen identification information item comprises the step of generating a unique specimen identification information item that is not immediately discernible.
26. (original) The specimen identification method as described in claim 25 wherein the step of generating a unique specimen identification information item that is not immediately discernible comprises the step of generating an encrypted specimen identification information item.
27. (original) The specimen identification method as described in claim 26 further comprising the step of associating a decryption algorithm specificity information item with said encrypted specimen identification information item, wherein said decryption algorithm specificity information item facilitates decryption of said encrypted specimen identification information item.
28. (original) The specimen identification method as described in claim 27 further comprising the step of associating a character-based, decryption code with said decryption algorithm specificity information item to create a code representation information item.

29. (original) The specimen identification method as described in claim 28 further comprising associating said character-based discernment code with said encrypted specimen identification information item.
30. (original) The specimen identification method as described in claim 29 wherein said step of associating said character-based discernment code with said encrypted specimen identification information item comprises the step of visually associating.
31. (original) The specimen identification method as described in claim 30 further comprising the step of establishing said character-based, decryption code as part of said encrypted specimen identification information item.
32. (original) The specimen identification method as described in claim 28 or 30 further comprising the step of limiting access to said code representation information item.
33. (original) The specimen identified using the method of claim 1.
34. (original) The test performed on the specimen identified using the method of claim 1.
35. (original) A specimen identification apparatus comprising:
 - a specimen donor identification information item associated with a specimen to be identified;
 - a specimen related event identifier associated with said specimen and appearing with said specimen donor identification information item so as to establish a specimen identifier.
36. (original) The specimen identification apparatus as described in claim 35 wherein said specimen identifier is character-based.

37. (original) The specimen identification apparatus as described in claim 35 wherein said specimen donor identification information item is a social security number.
38. (original) The specimen identification apparatus as described in claim 35 wherein said specimen related event identifier is a specimen collection time.
39. (original) The specimen identification apparatus as described in claim 38 said specimen collection time comprises a specimen collection date.
40. (original) The specimen identification apparatus as described in claim 39 said specimen collection time further comprising a specimen collection time of day.
41. (original) The specimen identification apparatus as described in claim 35 wherein said specimen identifier is substantially contiguous.
42. (original) The specimen identification apparatus as described in claim 35 wherein said specimen donor identification information item is not immediately discernible.
43. (currently amended) The specimen identification apparatus as described in claim 42 wherein said not immediately discernable specimen donor identification information item has associated with it a ~~disc-~~Process-spec-info-Item
discernment process specificity information item.
44. (original) The specimen identification apparatus as described in claim 43 further comprising a code representation information item in which said discernment process specificity information item has associated with it a character-based discernment code that represents said discernment process specificity information item.

45. (original) The specimen identification apparatus as described in claim 44 wherein said character-based discernment code is visually associated with said specimen identifier.
46. (original) The specimen identification apparatus as described in claim 42 wherein said not immediately discernable specimen donor identification information item is an encrypted specimen donor identification information item.
47. (original) The specimen identification apparatus as described in claim 46 wherein said encrypted specimen donor identification information item has associated with it a decryption algorithm specificity information item that facilitates decryption of said encrypted specimen donor identification information item.
48. (original) The specimen identification apparatus as described in claim 47 further comprising a code representation information item in which said decryption algorithm specificity information item has associated with it a character-based decryption code that represents said decryption algorithm specificity information item.
49. (original) The specimen identification apparatus as described in claim 48 further comprising associating said character-based discernment code with said specimen identifier.
50. (original) The specimen identification apparatus as described in claim 49 wherein associating said character-based discernment code with said specimen identifier comprises the step of visually associating.
51. (original) The specimen identification apparatus as described in claim 50 wherein said specimen identifier further comprising said character-based discernment code.

- 52. (original) The specimen identification apparatus as described in claim 35 wherein specimen related event identifier is not immediately discernible.
- 53. (original) The specimen identification apparatus as described in claim 52 wherein not immediately discernible specimen related event identifier is an encrypted specimen related event identifier.
- 54. (original) The specimen identification apparatus as described in claim 53 wherein said encrypted specimen related event identifier has associated with it a decryption algorithm specificity information item that facilitates decryption of said encrypted specimen related event identifier.
- 55. (original) The specimen identification apparatus as described in claim 54 further comprising a code representation information item in which said decryption algorithm specificity information item has associated with it a character-based decryption code that represents said decryption algorithm specificity information item.
- 56. (original) The specimen identification apparatus as described in claim 55 further comprising associating said character-based discernment code with said specimen identification.
- 57. (original) The specimen identification apparatus as described in claim 56 wherein associating said character-based discernment code with said specimen identifier comprises the step of visually associating.
- 58. (original) The specimen identification apparatus as described in claim 59 wherein said specimen identifier further comprising said character base decryption code.
- 59. (original) The specimen identification apparatus as described in claim 35 wherein said specimen identifier is not immediately discernable.

60. (original) The specimen identification apparatus as described in claim 59 wherein said not immediately discernable specimen identifier is an encrypted specimen identifier.
61. (original) The specimen identification apparatus as described in claim 60 wherein said encrypted specimen identifier has associated with it a description algorithm specificity information item that facilitates decryption of said encrypted specimen identifier.
62. (original) The specimen identification apparatus as described in claim 61 further comprising a code representation information item in which said description algorithm specificity information item has associated with it a character-based decryption code that represents said decryption algorithm specificity information item.
63. (original) The specimen identification apparatus as described in claim 62 further comprising associating said character-based decryption code with said encrypted specimen identifier.
64. (original) The specimen identification apparatus as described in claim 63 wherein associating said character-based decryption code with said encrypted specimen identifier comprises visually associating.
65. (original) The specimen identification apparatus as described in claim 64 wherein said encrypted specimen identifier comprises said character-based decryption code.
66. (original) The specimen identification apparatus as described in claim 59 wherein said not immediately discernable specimen identifier has associated with it a discernment process specificity information item.

67. (original) The specimen that the apparatus of claim 35 identifies.
68. (original) The test performed on the specimen that the apparatus of claim 35 identifies.
69. (original) An element identification method comprising:
- identifying an element associated entity with an entity identification information item;
 - adequately specifying a time-related identifier;
 - associating said entity identification information item with said time-related identifier;
 - generating a unique element identification information item in response to said step of associating said entity identification information item with said time-related identifier.

Claims 70 – 107 (cancelled)

108. (original) An element identification apparatus comprising:
- an entity identification information item associated with an element to be identified;
 - a time related identifier associated with said element and appearing with said entity identification information item so as to establish an element identifier.

Claims 109 – 253 (cancelled)